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(22) Press Digests

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ZARTONK

15 January 1948

Ervan Takes Up the Question of Tchalakian Children

The papers of Soviet Armenia are taking up the matter of H. Tchalakian's three children who were not permitted to immigrate to Soviet Armenia by a Catholic organization which has been taking care of them.

Mr. Tchalakian has published an open letter in the Soviet Armenian press, requesting the American law courts to settle the case and send the three children to him in accordance with the law of paternal right. He says that it was his peer condition that forced him to hand his three youngest children to a religious organization. It does not mean that the organization has every right to them. He also says that his other children are at present living in Soviet Armenia in complete freedom and have all the facilities, and he wants his three children in the United States sent to Soviet Armenia. To the Catholic organization, he says, "You are committing a crime by preventing my children to return to their fatherland." He is receiving many letters of sympathy from every corner of Armenia, and public opinion is very much disturbed by this injustice.

16 January 1948

Question of Camps  
(By H. Setrajian)

The question of camps is one of the most sorrowful problems of Armenians in Syria and Lebanon. When the Armenians came to this part of the world, they could hardly afford a few pieces of lumber and tin to protect themselves from sun and rain. However, large quarters were built with market places, schools, and churches. These huts were lacking in hygienic facilities. As time past, most of the Armenians were able to construct stone houses. The Hansen Office of the "League of Nations", the Armenian Benevolent General Union, rich Armenians and local Governments have assisted them in building better homes.

However, today, after 25 years, not all the Armenians could afford to leave these huts. We still have the Armanos Quarter in Beirut and Tiro and Sanjak camps in the Nahr district. In recent years, many Bedevils, Mtveillis, and Kurds have also built or bought such huts.

The attention of the local government and the Armenian national agencies has always been sympathetic toward the situation, and every-time the Government or the municipality wanted to destroy the huts, some means were found to delay the action.

The Cholera epidemic brought the matter up again. No one knows when they will be destroyed, but the question is an important one and our national bodies must study and find some solution to this problem, so that hundreds of Armenian families will not be thrown out into the rain and cold. This is a matter of conscience and of national prestige.

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#### The Armenian National Fund

This plan originated five years ago in Egypt and is interesting particularly from a cultural point of view. Its purpose is to help young men of special ability to get a higher education in Lebanon, Syria, and France and assist the publication of important works.

Apart from what has been spent up to now, the Fund has an untouchable capital of 30,000 Egyptian pounds. The income being used only for assisting educational and publication expenses.

As the main purpose of the fund is "to help create intellectual leaders, whose absence is taking the Armenians out of Armenia to degeneration," truly national assistance is imperative.

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#### The Enterprises of Armenian University Students' Union

The Union organized a New Year's meeting in the Armenian Benevolent Unions' Home on January 10, Saturday evening. There were many songs, declamations, music, gifts for New Year, funny stories, and a short speech by Professor P. Tovmassian, who said that the enterprise was to be appreciated. There was also a lottery and dancing.

The next day, Sunday January 11, there was a lecture by Puzant Yeghiayan on the subject of "The Need of an Armenian National Economic Policy."

Mr. Norashkarian opened the meeting by saying that this was the second public lecture by the Students' Union. Others will follow, with the purpose of strengthening the love of the Armenian language, history, culture, nation, and fatherland in order to prepare better Armenians and better men for our country.

Then Mr. Puzant Yeghiayan spoke for three-quarters of an hour, emphasizing that the world has been and is motivated by economic forces. "We have had everything except economists who could organize the economy of our national life. Our Sicilian Kingdom fell because of lack of a strong economic organization. We were exiled and

massacred, as we had no organized communal economy. Our people are intelligent, we have the opportunities, we are clever in commerce, but we need to utilize these opportunities and abilities.

He asked those present to do their best in order to have an organized finance and a strong economy.

When he finished, his speech there was nothing but silence in the hall as the subject had magnetized everyone.

The President asked those present to carry this message out of the walls of the hall, in order to achieve its realization.

Z A R T O N K

18 January 1948

About Vishinsky's Declaration

For a long time Tashnak papers, using AFP's Ankara correspondent's incomplete and changed report, have been doing everything to blacken the Soviet Union and Soviet Armenia. Even after the certified and complete translation published in "Zartonk" and other papers, they continue their old song.

There is no doubt that the Tashnaks are not really interested in the Vishinsky declaration or in the Armenian question. On every occasion, rightly or wrongly, they are fighting the fatherland and trying to bring about the failure of immigration.

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A Visit to the Armenian Catholicos at Etchmiadsin (Near Eriwan)

Mikhail DOLGOPOLOV (nothing is said about his Who's Who) had an interview with the Catholicos of All Armenia in Etchmiadsin, during which the Most Reverend Father said:

"The return of Armenians to their fatherland is one of the most important problems for me. The Armenian Church has always worked for the people and now blesses those who return to their fatherland. The Government is doing its best to assist them. To each immigrant, the Government gives free land and a credit of 30,000 rubles and building materials for the construction of personal residences. More than that, many factories are constructing new homes to receive the new workers from abroad. Work is guaranteed for the immigrants, according to their trades and occupations."

Then His Holiness continued,

"I have presented special memoranda to the United States, Britain and France requesting the return of all Armenian lands which were occupied by force by the Turks."

22-23 January 1948

TURKEY BETWEEN TWO GIANTS  
Two articles by H. Koumrouyan

Every time the international relations of the big ones is discussed, Turkey is in the front, either directly or indirectly.

At present again, when Britain has great political activity in the Middle East and when the Truman policy and the Marshall plan are being discussed and investigated, Turkey is again attracting general attention. Turkey today is against the Soviet Union and therefore is attached to the chariot of the United States.

We Armenians often think that the great Occidental powers are doing a great injustice to small nations, and particularly the Armenian people, thus protecting a dark-minded and plundering Turkey. There is no doubt about it. We must consider, however, that the United States of today, as it was the case of Britain yesterday, knows much better what the Turks really are and what Turkey represents as a value to civilization and to culture. They have many documents in their files showing the real face of Turkey, its criminal politics and psychology. They are today interested in Turkey for their own interests and their help will continue only so long as these interests exist. The Turks know this and try to keep the United States interested as long as it can.

Both the Soviet Union and the United States are pursuing a policy of establishing political, commercial, and economic relations with the outside world, and thus Turkey is now between the two giants.

History teaches us that every unnatural phenomenon and every important question is finally solved one way or the other. Today the United States is helping Turkey, but all signs show that the United States will not exaggerate and fight the Soviets for the Turks, who are disappointed because they are not included in the Marshall Plan.

It is not impossible that some kind of agreement may be reached between the United States and the Soviets, which would be of great importance to the peace of the world.

Turkey is now benefiting from the fight between the two giants and it is not with hope that she is awaiting the critical moment.

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Praiseworthy Things  
Victoria ASHAROUNI

Certainly there are many praiseworthy things in Soviet Armenia.

One of them is "Childrens Castles," which are after-school organizations. Children and young pupils go there for amusement and for study. There one can find special buildings for wireless, flying, engineering, botany, photography, cinemas, etc. There are also palaces for arts, music, painting, sculpturing, dancing, etc. The lessons are free and on a theoretical and practical basis.

Another good thing is the absence of every prejudice against hand-work just as the case is in the United States.

Another very good thing is the assistance given for literature and arts. There in Soviet Armenia, those who have talent are protected and assisted without limit. And this is marvellous.

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#### Turkish Law of General Pardon and Armenians

"Aksham", Turkish newspaper, states that a law of general pardon has been prepared for the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the republic.

The paper has received the following details from its correspondent; in Ankara:

"Authoritative circles confirm that next year general pardon will be declared on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Republic. All those who have been prisoners up to September 1947 will benefit from this pardon. All the Greeks from Anatolia, who were exchanged with Greeks in Greece, and who could not return to Turkey up to now, will be able to come and go freely, even as tourists. As for the Armenians from Turkey, investigations have shown that most of them left Turkey in hordes during 1922 and 1923. On the passports of most of them was registered the words "return not proper" and they could not return to Turkey. Armenians in this category will also benefit, on certain conditions, from this pardon. The general opinion is that those who have parents or near relatives in Turkey will be permitted to visit the country. Permission for temporary residence will be given to businessmen and to those Armenians who wish to visit Turkey as tourists. This plan will be presented to the Grand National Assembly during January."

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Activities of the Armenian Young Mens' Association

The first 1948 activity of Zareh Noubar Club took place on January 18, at 3 PM. The President, Mr. Oudis MANOUGUIAN made the opening speech declaring that the present Executive Committee of the Club is planning large-scale activity.

The speaker was Professor Toumassian, who explained that the Armenian Church and the Armenian Benevolent Society have always worked for the maintenance of national values and that the Armenian Young Mens' Association, being under the auspices of these organizations, has adopted their principles and goes down the same road. He appealed to parents to encourage their sons to join this Association and asked the young men to use this pleasant club for their free hours instead of wasting them here and there.